## Message Text

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**ACTION NEA-12** 

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 /088 W

----- 052086

R 210633Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9091

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECRETKUWAIT 1092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU MARR PFOR IR SA SUBJ: OMAN - AND THE GULF

1. IN MEETING CHARGE KILLGORE AND I HAD WITH BAHRAIN'S RULER SHAIKH ISA, PRIME MINISTER KHALIFA AND FONMIN MOHAMED MOBARAK MAR 16, SHAIKH ISA ASKED ME HOW DHOFAR WAR WAS GOING. I REPLIED MILITARY SITUATION APPEARED BE REASONABLY WELL IN HAND; IRANIANS HAD BEEN GENEROUS WITH MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER BASIC PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN ARABIA BY NO MEANS YET ON WAY TO SOLUTION AND NOT LIKELY TO BE UNTIL ARABS INTERESTED IN STABILITY IN THIS AREA LENT A HAND ALSO.

2. SHAIKH ISA SAID IT WOULD BE WORRYING IF IRAN "GOT IN TOO DEEP"
IN OMAN. ON OTHER HAND, HE OBSERVED, ONE HAD TO COUNT ON HIS
FRIENDS, AND IRANIANS HAD CERTAINLY COME THROUGH FOR SULTAN QABUS.
MOREOVER, IT WAS BETTER THAT IRANIANS PROVIDE ANY DIRECT
MILITARY HELP NEEDED THAN ANYONE OUTSIDE PENINSULA-GULF AREA,
INCLUDING US. I SAID SULTAN QABUS WAS CLEARLY VERY GRATEFUL
FOR ASSISTANCE HE HAD RECEIVED AND WAS ONE TO STICK WITH PROVEN
FRIENDS. HOWEVER, HE ALSO FULLY UNDERSTOOD IMPORTANCE OF ARAB
ROLE IN SOLUTION OF DHOFAR PROBLEM, AND THE MORE GENERAL POLITICAL PROBELM OF TRYING BRING RECONCILIATION BETWEEN OMAN AND
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SOUTH YEMEN.

- 3. PM KHALIFA SAID SAUDIS SHOULD INDEED OFFER HELPING HAND TO OMAN ON DEVELOPMENTAL SIDE IF THEY DID NOT BELIEVE MILITARY AID WAS WISE. OMAN, HE ASSERTED, NEEDED HELP ON BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FRONTS.
- 4. I SAID I HAD OFTEN TOLD KUWAITIS AND OTHER ARABS IN GULF THAT THEY COULD NOT EXPECT AS CRUCIAL AN AREA AS GULF TO REMAIN IMMUNE TO THE CONCERN AND EVEN INTERFERENCE OF OTHERS IN THEIR AFFAIRS UNLESS THEY WILLING TO COOPERATE AMONG THEMSELVES IN SECURTLY MATTERS TO DEMONSTRATE TO WORLD THAT SUCH ATTENTION WAS UNNECESSARY OR WAS FRUITLESS.
- 5. PM KHALIFA AGREED. FURTHERMORE, HE SAID, LEADER WORTHY OF HIS SALT WAS CONSTANTLY ALERT TO SITUATION, TOOK ACTION PROMPTLY AND BOLDLY, AND DID NOT OVERLY CONCERN HIMSELF WITH HIS CRITICS. SUCH A MAN, SAID KHALIFA, WAS THE SHAH.
- 6. NEAR END OF MEETING SHAIKH ISA SAID HE HOPED THAT US RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ALWAYS REMAIN STRONG. I SAID US AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NEED EACH OTHER EVEN MORE IN FUTURE THAN IN PAST, AND IT WAS MY OPINION THAT US-SAUDI TIES WERE JUST ABOUT UNBREAKABLE. STOLTZFUS

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, WAR

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KLIWALT01092

Document Number: 1974KUWAIT01092 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740061-0511

From: KUWAIT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740326/aaaaaykn.tel

Line Count: 85

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION NEA

**Original Classification: SECRET** Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 24 JUN 2002

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>

**Review Markings:** 

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: OMAN - AND THE GULF

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, MU, IR, SA, (SHAIKH ISA)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005